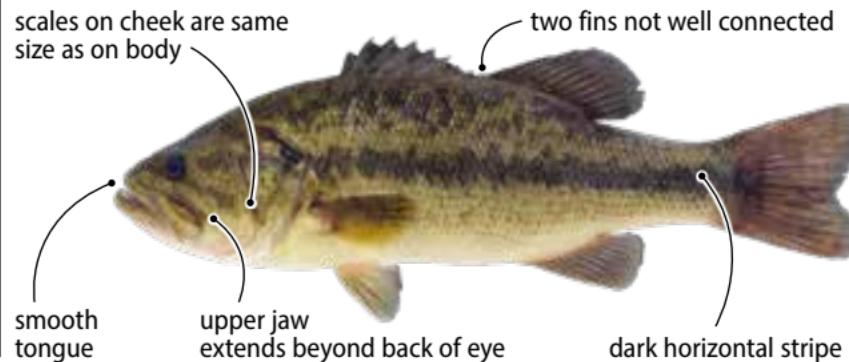


KNOW YOUR CATCH

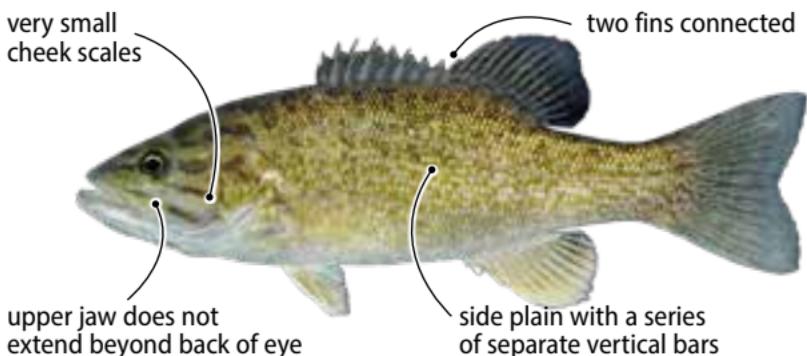
Your Guide to Fish Identification

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT
OF CONSERVATION

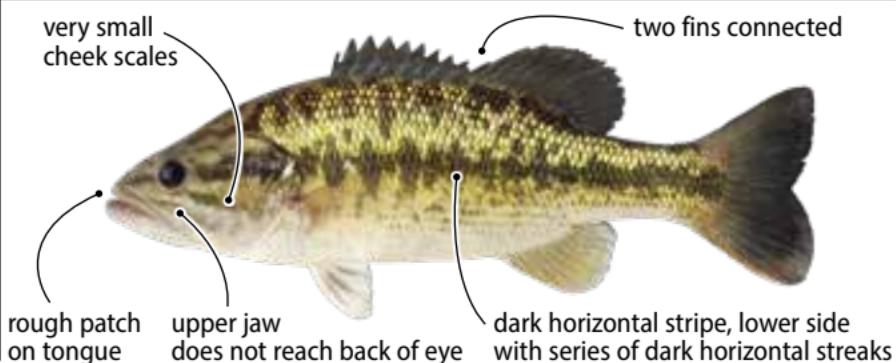
Largemouth bass



Smallmouth bass

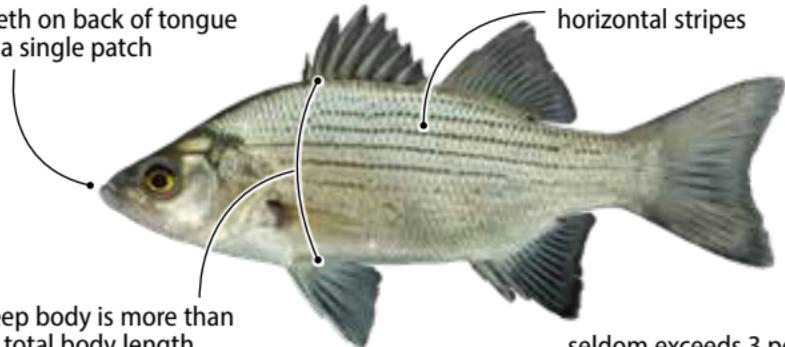


Spotted bass



White bass

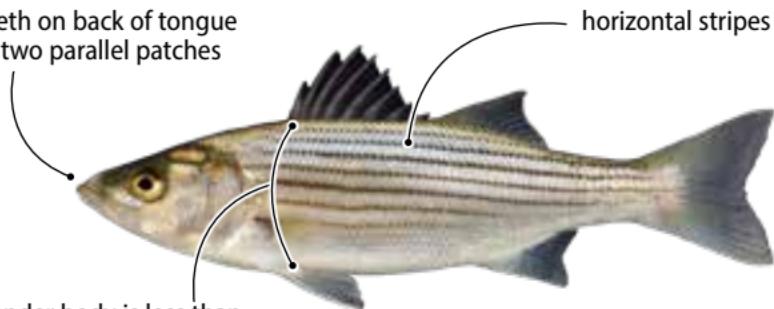
teeth on back of tongue in a single patch



horizontal stripes

Striped bass

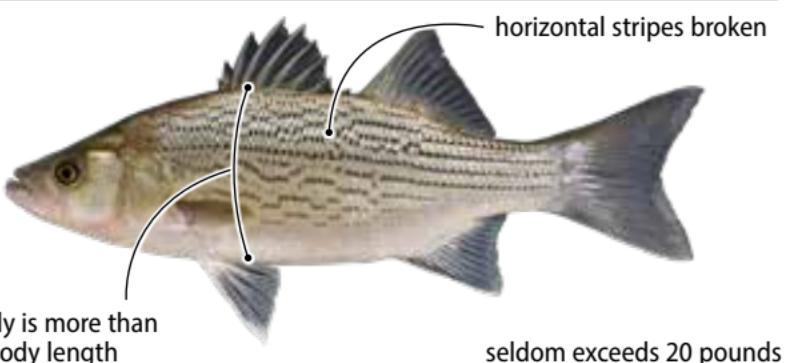
teeth on back of tongue in two parallel patches



horizontal stripes

White bass-striped bass hybrid

deep body is more than 1/3 total body length

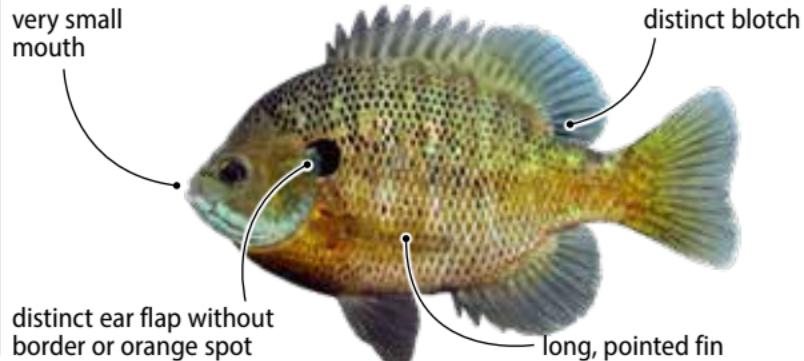


commonly reaches 20 pounds

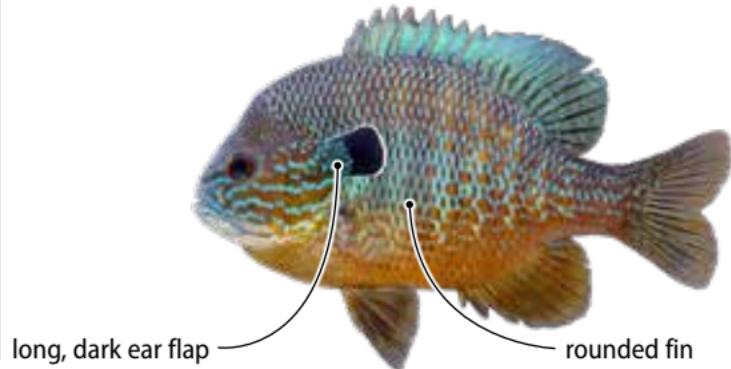
horizontal stripes broken

seldom exceeds 20 pounds

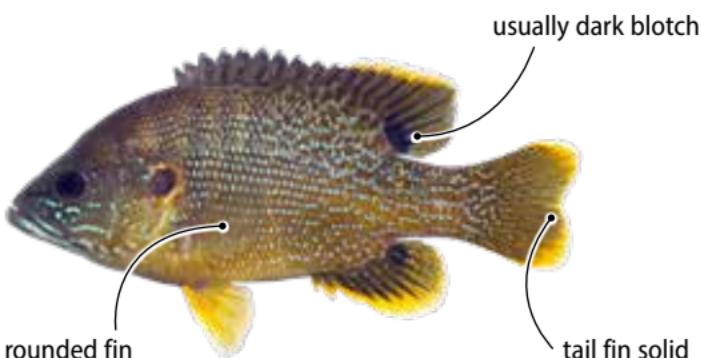
Bluegill



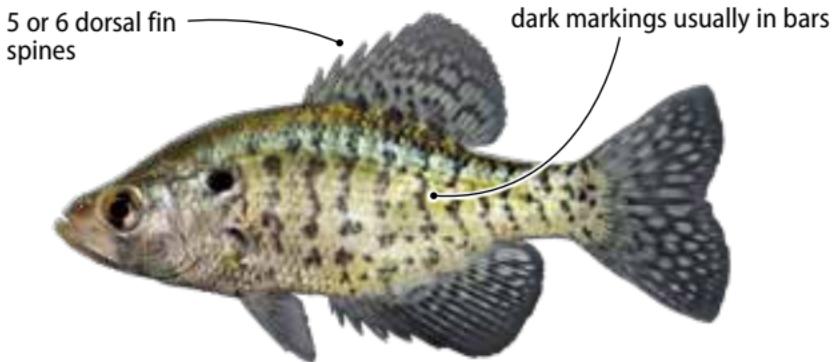
Longear sunfish



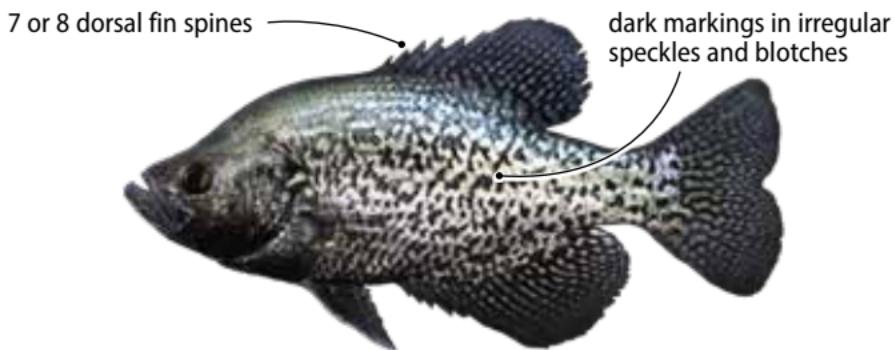
Green sunfish



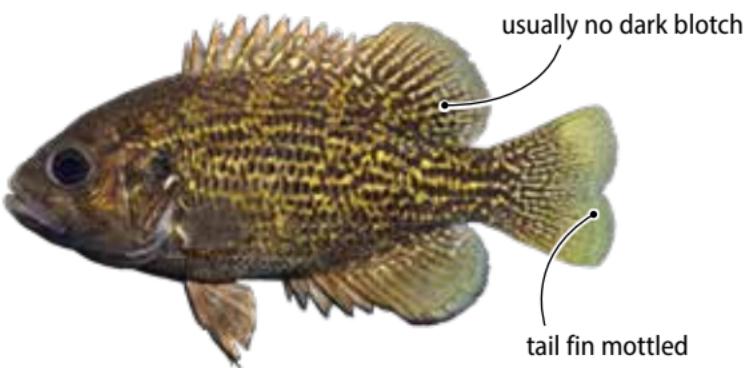
White crappie



Black crappie



Goggle-eye (Rock bass)



Flathead catfish

lower jaw extends beyond upper jaw

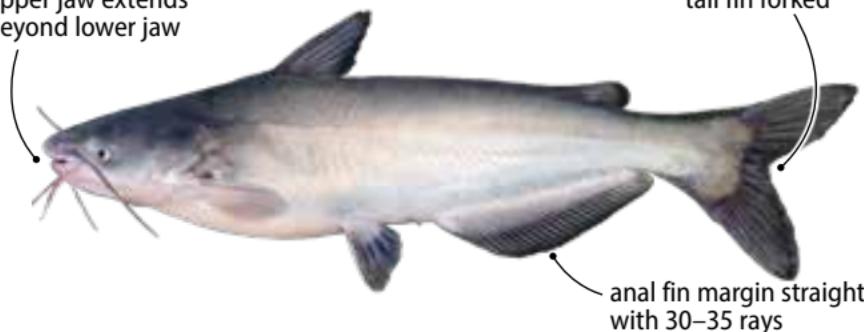


upper fin lighter than remainder of fin

tail fin square

Blue catfish

upper jaw extends beyond lower jaw

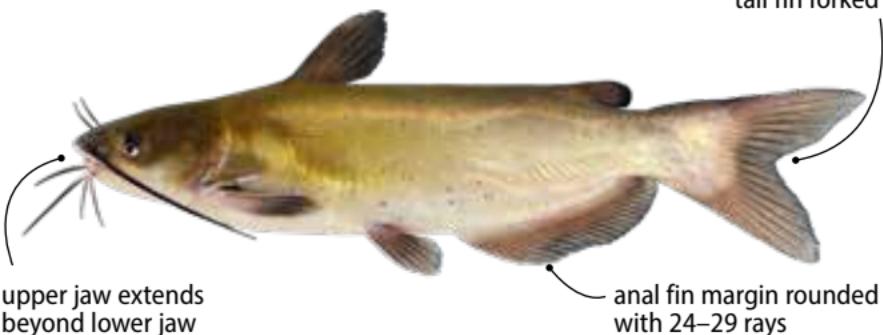


tail fin forked

anal fin margin straight with 30–35 rays

Channel catfish

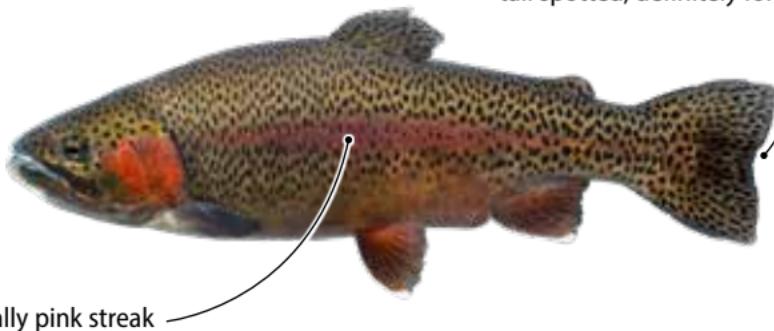
upper jaw extends beyond lower jaw



tail fin forked

anal fin margin rounded with 24–29 rays

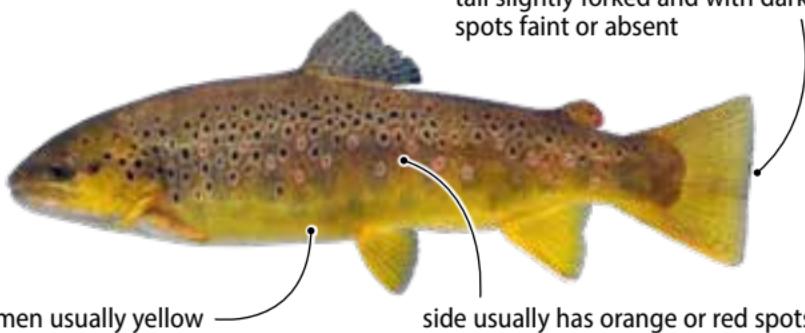
Rainbow trout



tail spotted, definitely forked

usually pink streak

Brown trout

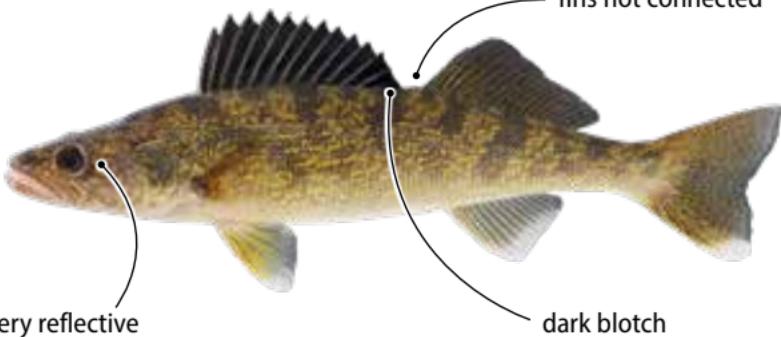


tail slightly forked and with dark spots faint or absent

abdomen usually yellow

side usually has orange or red spots

Walleye



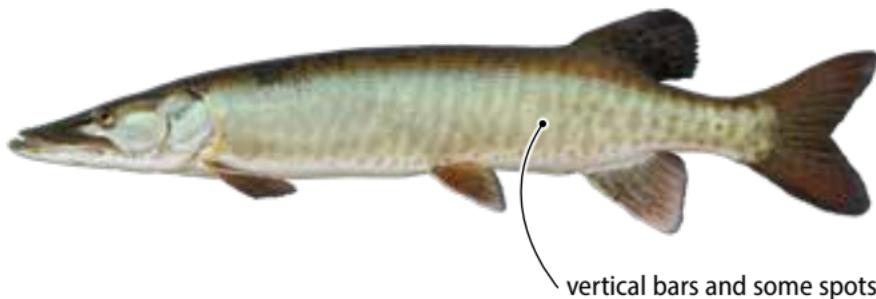
fins not connected

eye very reflective

dark blotch

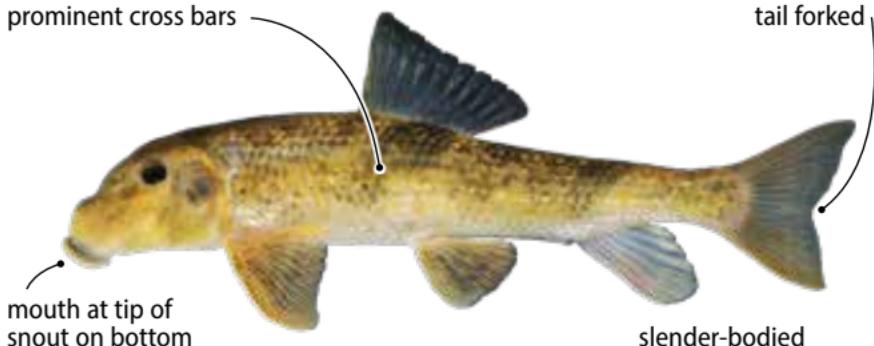
Muskellunge

long and slender



Northern hog sucker

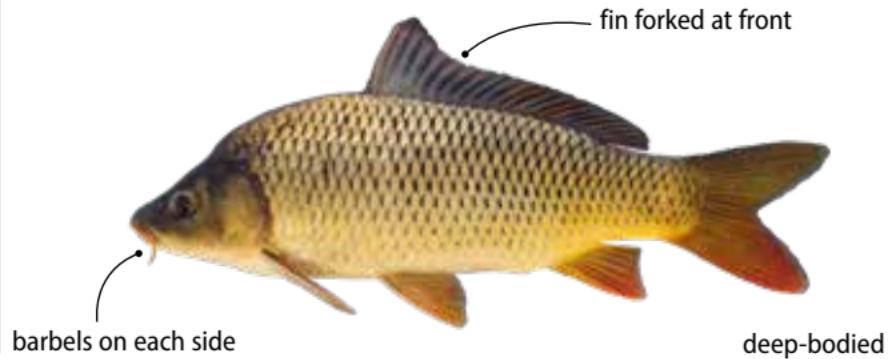
prominent cross bars



INVASIVE Common carp

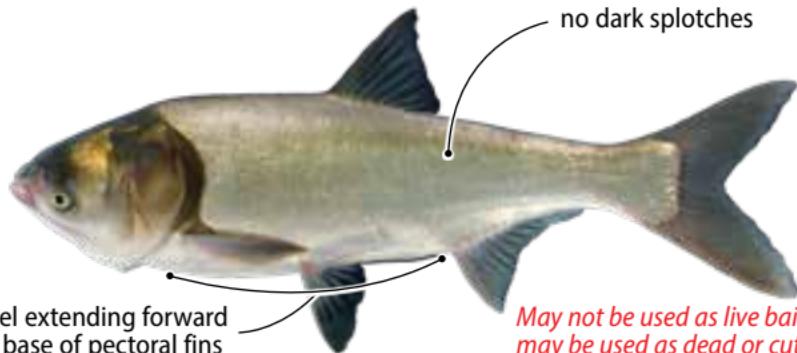
barbels on each side

fin forked at front



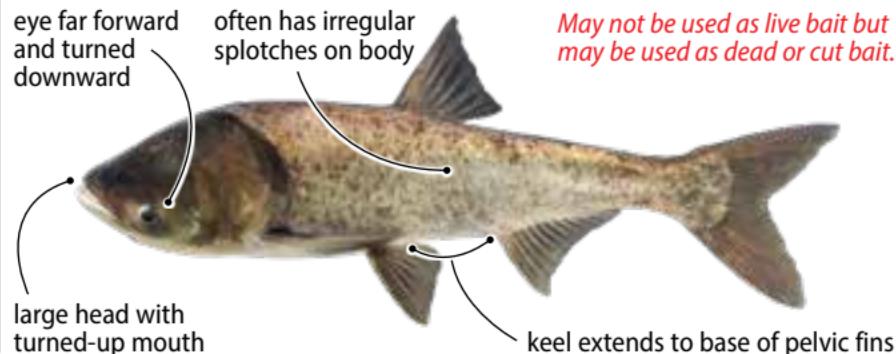
deep-bodied

INVASIVE Silver carp



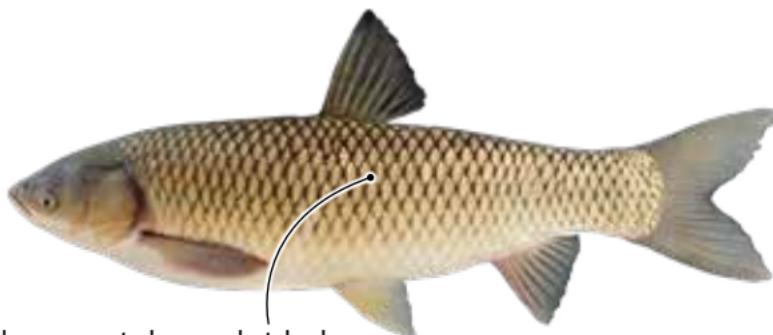
May not be used as live bait but may be used as dead or cut bait.

INVASIVE Bighead carp



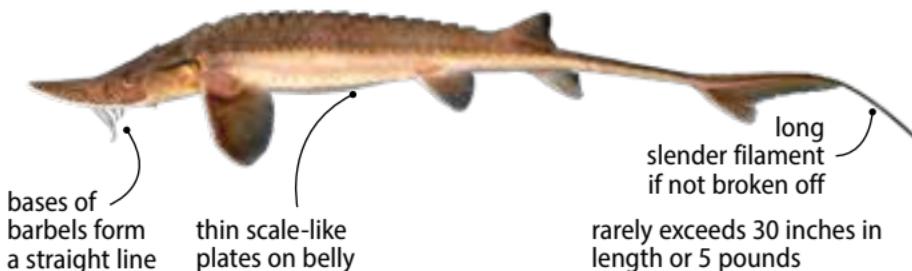
May not be used as live bait but may be used as dead or cut bait.

INVASIVE Grass carp



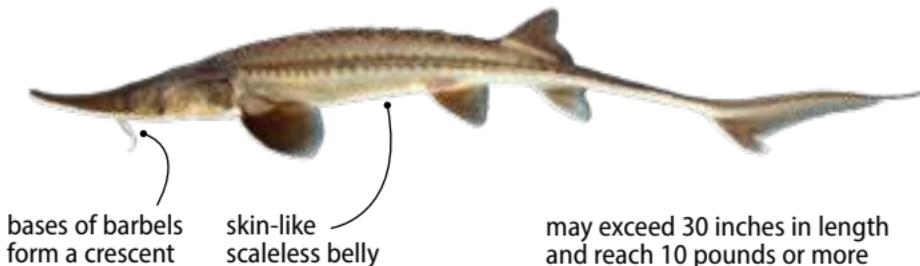
Shovelnose sturgeon

Shovelnose sturgeon and endangered pallid sturgeon are similar.



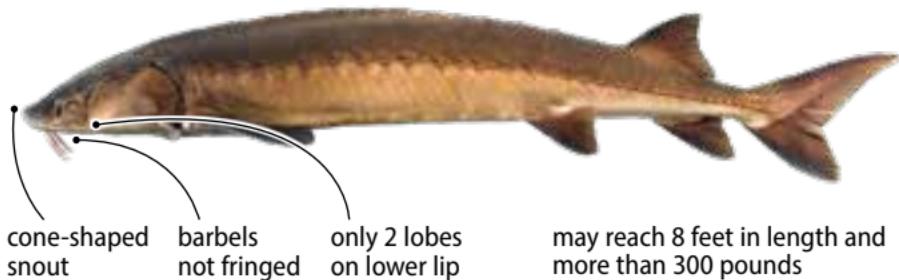
ENDANGERED Pallid sturgeon

Endangered species: If caught, return unharmed to water immediately.



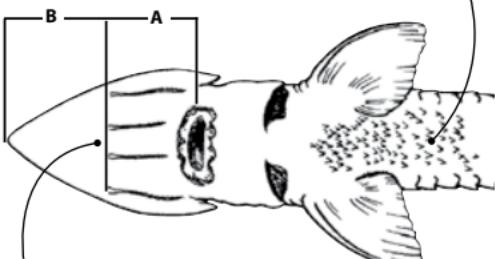
ENDANGERED Lake sturgeon

Endangered species: If caught, return unharmed to water immediately.



- reddish-brown or buff color
- found throughout Missouri and Mississippi rivers

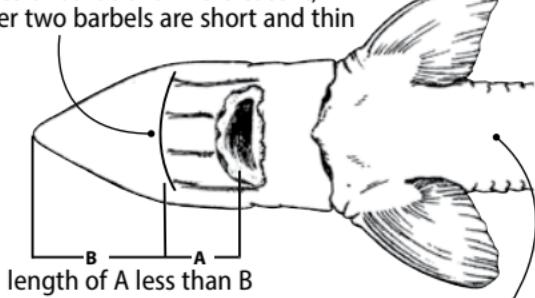
length of A similar to B belly with scale-like plates



bases of barbels in a straight line;
inner two barbels are long and thick

- grayish-white color
- found in the Missouri River and in the Mississippi downstream from the mouth of the Illinois River

bases of barbels form a crescent;
inner two barbels are short and thin

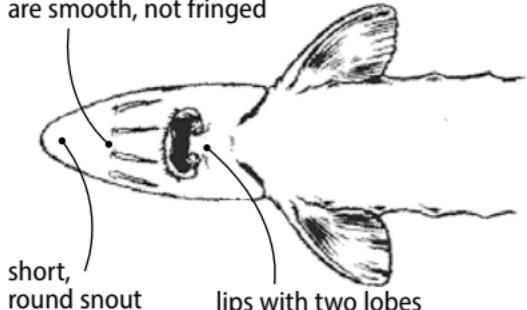


length of A less than B

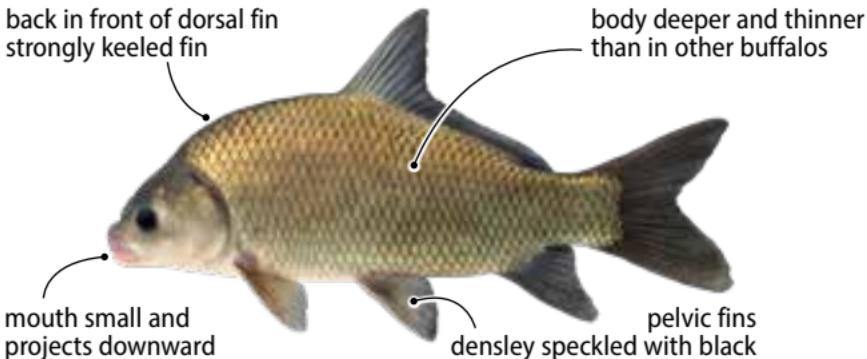
belly without scale-like plates

- sides and back range from dark slate to light brown or yellowish-olive; white belly
- found throughout Missouri and Mississippi rivers

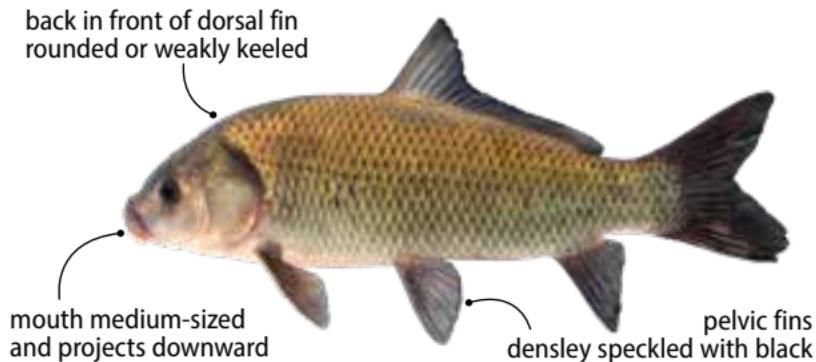
barbels near mouth
are smooth, not fringed



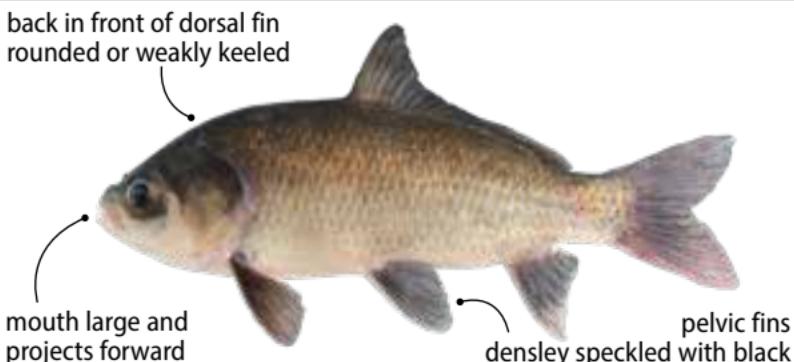
Smallmouth buffalo



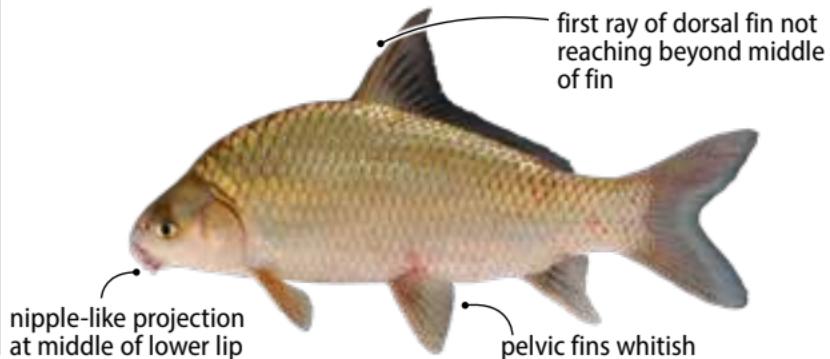
Black buffalo



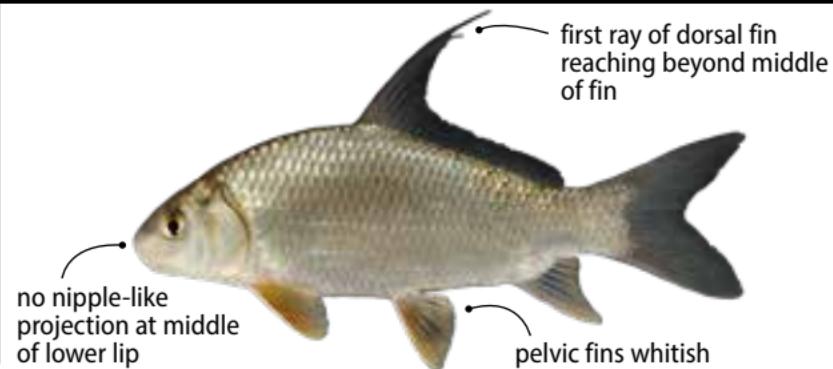
Bigmouth buffalo



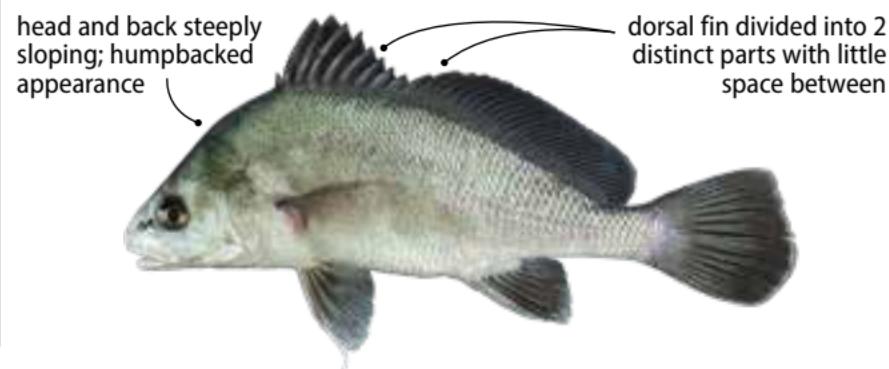
River carpsucker



Quillback

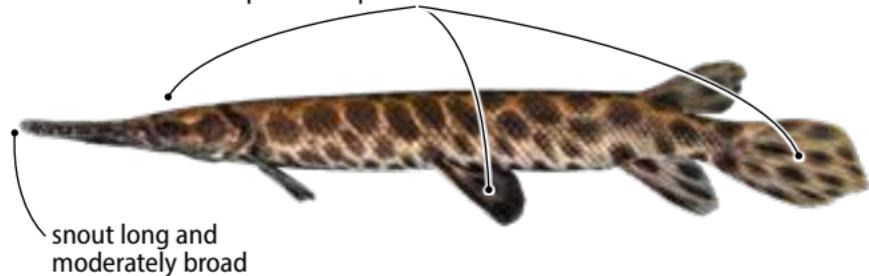


Freshwater drum



Spotted gar

many well-defined roundish black spots on top of head and all fins



Longnose gar

well-defined roundish black spots on rear of the body and rear fins only



Shortnose gar

well-defined black spots on rear fins only



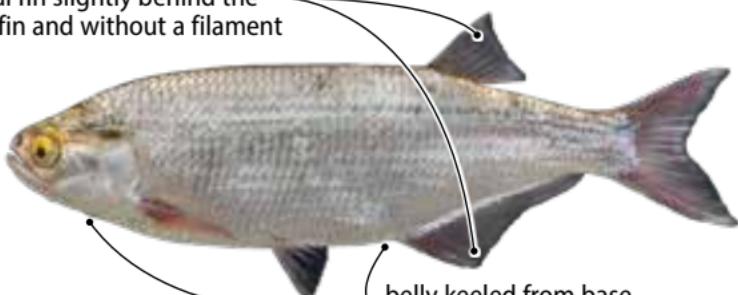
Alligator gar



Snout short and broad with double row of teeth in upper jaw

Goldeye

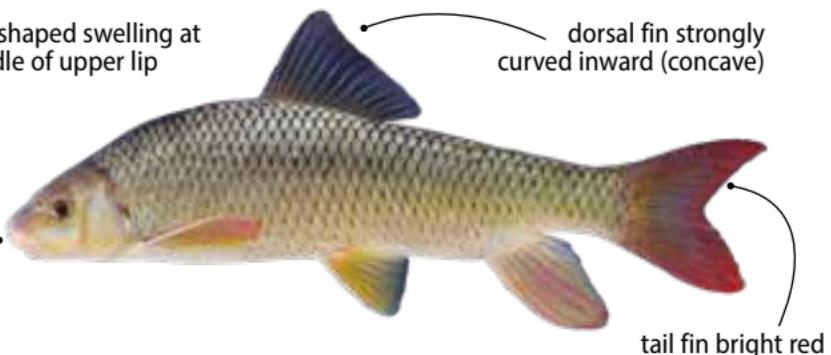
dorsal fin slightly behind the anal fin and without a filament



belly keeled from base of anal fin nearly to throat

Shorthead redhorse

pea-shaped swelling at middle of upper lip



dorsal fin strongly curved inward (concave)

tail fin bright red

Fishing trip checklist

- Fishing license
- Rod and reel
- Tackle box (with needle nose pliers, wire cutting pliers, nail clippers)
- Water and snacks
- Bait and lures
- Stringer
- Landing net
- First-aid kit
- Personal floatation device (PFD)
- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Fish identification guide

Fishing Prospects — fishing.mdc.mo.gov

MO Fishing App — short.mdc.mo.gov/ZJZ



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mdc.mo.gov

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